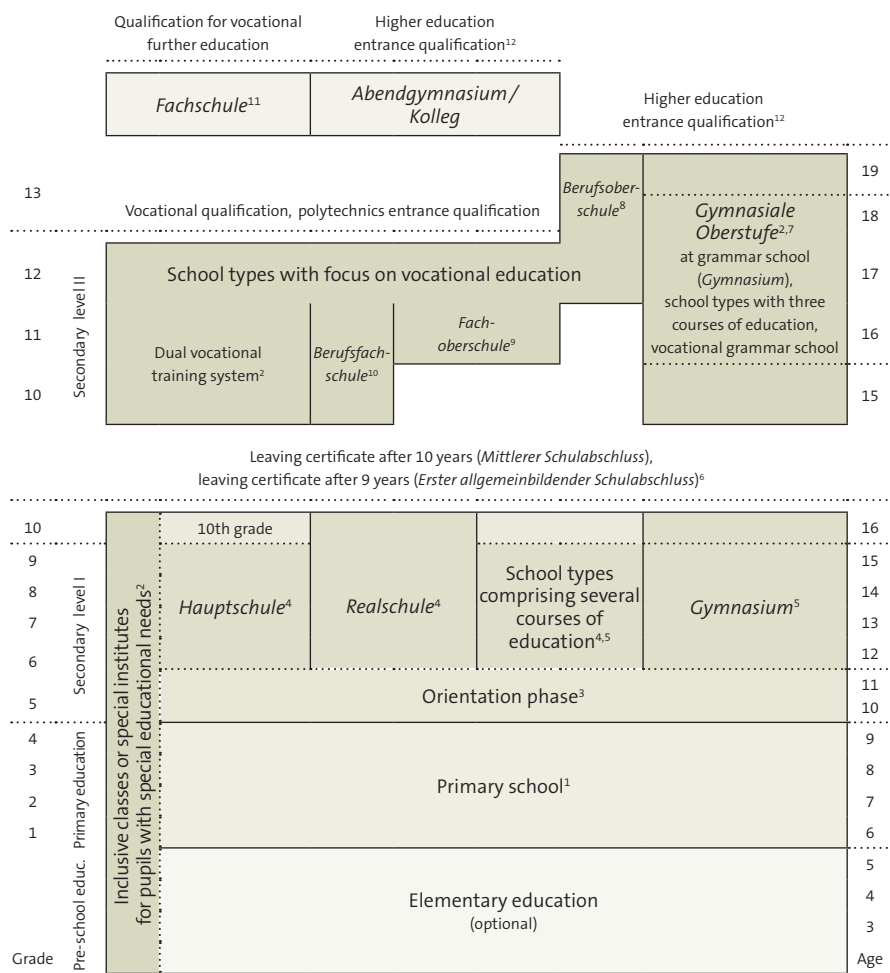


**Fig. 1 | Basic Structure of the Educational System in the Federal Republic of Germany**



<sup>1</sup> Some states have special types of transition from early childhood education to primary school education (*Vorklassen, Schulkindergärten*). Primary school comprises six grades in Berlin and Brandenburg.

<sup>2</sup> Pupils with special needs are taught in inclusive classes at general education schools or at institutes with a focus on special education. The name given to such schools varies according to the law of the state concerned.

<sup>3</sup> Grades 5 and 6 constitute a phase of particular advancement, supervision and orientation with regard to the pupil's future educational path and particular direction.

<sup>4</sup> *Hauptschule* and *Realschule* exist in appreciable numbers in only five states (Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Hessen, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia). In Bavaria, the type of school comparable to *Hauptschule* is called *Mittelschule*. *Hauptschule* and *Realschule* courses are also offered at schools with multiple curricula, for which the names differ from one state to another.

<sup>5</sup> The following types of school combine *Hauptschule* and *Realschule* courses under a single educational and organisational umbrella: *Regelschule* (Thuringia), *Sekundarschule* (Bremen, Saxony-Anhalt), *Verbundene Haupt- und Realschule* (Hessen), *Regionale Schule* (Mecklenburg-West Pomerania), *Realschule plus* (Rhineland-Palatinate), *Regionalschule* (Schleswig-Holstein), *Oberschule* (Brandenburg, Saxony), and *Mittelstufenschule* (Hessen). – Some types of school offer curricula of *Hauptschule*, *Realschule* and also *Gymnasium*: *Integrierte Gesamtschule*, *Kooperative Gesamtschule*, *Integrierte Sekundarschule* (Berlin), *Oberschule* (Bremen, Lower Saxony), *Stadtteilschule* (Hamburg), to some extent *Regionale Schule* (Mecklenburg-West Pomerania), *Gemeinschaftsschule* (Baden-Württemberg, Saarland, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringia), and *Sekundarschule* (North Rhine-Westphalia).

<sup>6</sup> The general education qualifications obtainable after grades 9 and 10 have particular designations in some states. These certificates can also be obtained at institutions offering secondary education for adults (known as *Zweiter Bildungsweg*), at vocational schools or through an external examination before a state examining board.

<sup>7</sup> Admission to the *Gymnasiale Oberstufe* requires a formal entrance qualification, which can be obtained after grade 9 or 10. The general higher education entrance qualification (*Allgemeine Hochschulreife*) can be obtained after the successful completion of 12 or 13 consecutive school years (eight or nine years at *Gymnasium*). As a rule, the *Gymnasium* course of studies is not reduced to eight years at schools which combine different curricula.

<sup>8</sup> The *Berufsoberschule* has so far only existed in a few states. It offers school-leavers with the *Mittlerer Schulabschluss* who have completed vocational education and training or five years' working experience an opportunity to obtain a higher education entrance qualification restricted to particular subjects (*Fachgebundene Hochschulreife*). Pupils can obtain the general higher education entrance qualification (*Allgemeine Hochschulreife*) by proving their proficiency in a second foreign language.

<sup>9</sup> The *Fachoberschule* admits pupils who have completed the *Mittlerer Schulabschluss* and qualifies them to study at polytechnics (*Fachhochschulreife*). The states may also establish a grade 13 with an opportunity to obtain the *Fachgebundene Hochschulreife* and, under certain conditions, the *Allgemeine Hochschulreife*.

<sup>10</sup> *Berufsfachschulen* are full-time vocational schools differing in entrance requirements, duration and leaving certificates. Basic vocational training can be obtained during one- or two-year courses at *Berufsfachschulen*, and a vocational qualification is available at the end of two- or three-year courses. Under certain conditions entrance qualification for polytechnics (*Fachhochschulreife*) can be acquired on completion of a course lasting a minimum of two years.

<sup>11</sup> *Fachschulen* cater to continuing vocational education (one to three year duration). As a rule they require the completion of relevant vocational education and training in a recognised occupation and subsequent employment. In addition, entrance qualification for polytechnics (*Fachhochschulreife*) can be acquired under certain conditions.

<sup>12</sup> With the exception of *Fachgebundene Hochschulreife* (see note 8), higher education entrance qualification is general in scope (*Allgemeine Hochschulreife*) and entitles holders to admission to all subjects at all higher education institutions. It is usually obtained at upper *Gymnasium* level (*gymnasiale Oberstufe*) by passing the *Abitur* examination.

Source: Basic Structure of the Educational System in the Federal Republic of Germany: Diagram, ed. Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin 2017 (data from 12/2016); and additional updated information from the websites of the state ministries of education and cultural affairs (retrieved 05/2019). Edited by the German Music Information Centre.